

DATE: July 23, 2008

For: Volume VII Distribution
Service Program Manual, Volume VII, Section III, Chapter C

Transmittal #219

The purpose of this transmittal is to provide legislative changes made by the 2007 and 2008 General Assembly and to update existing information to Volume VII, Sections III, Chapters C, Adoption Agency Placement. The changes for 2007 were effective July 1, 2007 and the changes for 2008 are effective, July 1, 2008.

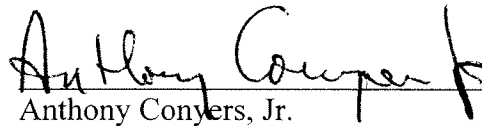
The Department will continue to revise guidance and procedures in Chapter C. The Adoption Subsidy Section of Chapter C is currently under revision and will be updated in the near future. We welcome suggestions for future consideration of the chapter.

Significant changes to Volume VII, Section III, Chapter C are as follows:

Change in Chapter C, Adoption Agency Placement - Effective July 1, 2008		
Chapter C, Section	Page	Significant Changes
Section 1 Purpose and Authority	Page 3	Revises language on how provision of adoption laws and regulations are guided in Chapter C.
Section 2 Definitions of Father	Page 7 and 8	Updates code citations for definitions of fathers and provides a definition for a registered putative father.
Section 3 Pre-Placement Services	Page 10, 11 and 12	Updates whose rights must be terminated to include a registered putative father.
	Page 13	Updates guidance to indicate a registered putative father must sign a permanent entrustment agreement and who receives notice of a permanent entrustment.
	Page 14	Provides that a permanent entrustment agreement is not required when the identity of the birth father is not reasonably ascertainable as evidenced by the birth father not registering with the Virginia Putative Father Registry.
	Page 15	When an entrustment is revoked by the birth parent(s) the custody must be returned to the birth parent(s) and no criminal record check is required.

Section 5 Post-Placement Services	Page 55	Provides that if any procedural provision of the adoption chapter only applies to one adoptive parent then the court may waive the procedural provision as it relates to the spouse.
	Page 56	Provides that a petition filed while a child is under 18 years of age but turns 18 years of age before the final decree of adoption is entered, that the petition shall not become invalid but have the same effect as if the child was under 18 years of age provided the court has obtained the consent of the adoptee.
	Page 58	Requires a statement to be included in the Report of Investigation of the efforts made to encourage birth parents to share information related to their Background, medical, and psychological history of the child be provided to the prospective adoptive parents and a list included in the Report of Investigation.
	Page 61	Updates information regarding changing the Social Security Number.
	Page 62	Provides that medical and psychological records are included in the checklist for the Report of Investigation.
Section 6 Post Adoption Services	Page 66	Requires documentation or information regarding the Virginia Putative Father Registry be sent to the Adoption Unit when the adoption is finalized.
Section 10 Adoption Home Study	Page 132	Provides clarification that only a licensed or duly authorized child-placing agency can provide a home study in Virginia.
	Page 143	Provides a requirement for adoptive parents or any household member to identify any criminal convictions in or out of the Commonwealth to include pending charges through a sworn statement or affirmation and whether or not the individual has been the subject of a founded CPS complaint.
	Page 143	Requires a CPS check to be conducted on the applicant or any other household member where they have resided for the last five years.
	Page 144	Provides that background checks must be completed through the Office Background Investigation (OBI) of the Virginia Department of Social Services.
	Page 145	Provides that the OBI can be contacted regarding criminal record information on arrests and convictions occurring in other states through the fingerprint checks.

	Page 152	Requires a home study approval period to be 36 months from the date of completion of the study.
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Conyers, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Anthony Conyers, Jr.
Commissioner